LIBERATION NEWS SERVICE

#459

August 19, 1972

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PLEASE NOTE: The week of August 21-25, instead of putting out a Tuesday packet and skipping the Friday packet, as we usually do the last week of the month, we will skip the Tuesday packet and put out the Friday packet. This way we will be able to get convention photos and stories to us soon as is possible for us.

SO REMEMBER, NEXT PACKET WILL HAVE THE FIRST OF OUR REPUBLICAN CONVENTION COVERAGE.

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BULLETIN BULLETIN FLASH BULLETIN BULLETIN FLASH ECT.

The three of the Tombs 7 interviewed in this packet--Richard De Leon, Curtis Brown and Nathaniel Ragsdale--were acquitted today on all charges stemming from the October 1970 rebellion at the Manhattan Men's House of Detention.

Another victory for the people!

LIBERATION News Service
Packet # 458
August 19, 1972

Second Class Postage
Paid at New York, NY

160 Claremont Avenue
New York, New York 10027
Phone (212) 749-2200

Published twice a week except for the last week in the month when it is published once a week

Subscriptions: $20 a month, $240 a year

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IF YOU ARE MISSING A PAGE OR GET A BADLY PRINTED GRAPHIC, LET US KNOW AND WE'LL SEND YOU ANOTHER

LET THEM EAT JUNK:
USDA SERVES JUNK FOOD IN SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

by Daniel Zwerdling

Sundance/LIBERATION News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. (LNS) -- In the Fifties, my third grade teacher taught us to eat wholesome breakfasts from the four basic food groups. She hung U.S. Department of Agriculture posters on the walls, featuring oversized pictures of fruits, grains, eggs and meat and milk.

Now USDA is singing another tune. For growing numbers of poor school children in its School Breakfast Program, breakfast is nothing but a carton of milk and a sugary, creamfilled fortified Hostess Twinkie. It is a boon for the snack industry which plans to cash in on the nutrition-consumer movement with bigger and bigger diets of cakes, soft drinks, puddings and other junk foods - all fortified with synthetic vitamins, minerals and protein.

At USDA, giving children junk food for breakfast makes good ecomonic sense. Ever since the breakfast program was started by Congress six years ago, it has bogged down in skimpy funds, bad administration and local politics. Every poor child in the U.S. is supposed to get fruit or fruit juice, milk and cereal - plus eggs and meat when schools can afford them. But only 943,000 children received breakfasts last year, even though USDA estimates that 9.3 million kids are eligible.

One problem is that inner city and rural schools with large numbers of poor children do not have kitchen equipment. The Milwaukee school system manages to cart breakfasts all over the city by truck, but USDA has offered schools an easier way out: let kids eat cake. No muss, no fuss.

"A truck can back up to the school door, dump hundreds of cartons of milk (and cakes) in the hallway if need be, the kids can grab them and eat," says Edward Koenig, deputy director of USDA's Nutrition and Techincal Service, which helps administer breakfast programs, "None of this bowls and glasses of juice spilling over."

It was two years ago when the first seeds of the cake program were sown. ITT's Continental Bakery sent its vice president for research, Robert Cotton, to Washington. President Nixon had urged industry and government to work together to end hunger and malnutrition "for all time."

As Koenig remembers it, Cotton asked, "What can I do ? I want to do something to help."

"We got a brainstorm," says Koenig, Kids just love ITT's Hostess Twinkies (not to mention Ding Dong's, Ho-Ho's and Suzy Q's). "We figured if we make something as appealing as a Twinkie yet as nutritious as fruit and cereal...."

The answer: Super Twinkie. Called Astrofood, it is laced with enough nutrients, according to ITT Continental, to make orange juice two strips of bacon, one egg and bread and butter obsolete.

USDA, which must approve any new foods in the breakfast program, redefined "breakfast" in October 1970, so schools could scrap the fruit and cereal and substitute "Fortified Baked Product with Cream Filling" instead.

No one knows how many children are munching sweet snacks for breakfast each morning (USDA does not keep those kinds of figures), but the baking companies are ecstatic. Since Tasty Baking Company joined the Breakfast program market last fall, its pie and cake sales have soared 70%. according to its annual report. Fifty thousand Philadelphia school-age children munch Tasty fortified cakes every morning. ITT supplies schools in St. Louis, Memphis, Little Rock and Atlanta and is opening markets in Seattle, Los Angeles, Massachusetts and New York. Both companies have sent teams of salesments scouring the country for more business.

Nutritionists - including USDA'a staff - think that sugary cake for breakfast is not the best way to fulfill Nixon's dream of "an end to hunger and malnutirtion for all time." The Food Research and Action Center, a governemnt funded community consulting firm in New York, worries that creamy cakes may have "a harmful effect on developing teeth due to their high sugar content and adhesive properties."

Plus, cake for breakfast is bad nutrition education. Children are learning that the same kind of stuff which gives them pimples, makes them fat and kills their appetites for real food, is suddenly good for them, The staff nutritionists for USDA's breakfast program thought the U.S. could dream up some way to feed real food to children for breakfast. After all, the U.S. exports $8 billion worth of food every year, and the government pays farmers another $3 billion to keep fertile land idle. But the policy makers could not be moved.

"The gut issue is getting nutrition into the kids' bellies," Doenig said. "Here were these millions of hungry kids. We needed something fast, and ITT had a product ready to go. True, the cakes aren't bacon and eggs. But they're eating it. Kids like the cakes, We don't care if the food is made out of whipped cream, as long as it has the required nutrients."

There is only one real drawback to the cakes, as Koenig sees it, is that children get bored eating them. So USDA is working diligently to promote interesting, wholesome varieties. It keeps a Rutgers University laboratory going full time testing new fortified goodies for the snack industry, at government expense.

Any new breakfast snack must first pass a panel of nutritionists. Then college students munch it. If they give the okay, Rutgers sends the food to some guinea-pig children in local schools. Then comes the garbage test: weigh the trash and see how much breakfast the children throw out. Finally, Rutgers feeds its product to 1,000 children, once a day for five months.

Rutgers is preparing a report on the popular breakfast foods of tomorrow. Soon, they say, six-

year-olds in the school breakfast programs will be selecting pop tarts, fruit pies, fig bars, doughnuts, cup cakes, brownies, wafers, puddings and soft drinks--made with artificial flavors, colors and textures, but fortified (artifically), of course.

The bias seems to be toward junk foods. "Well, that's what kids like," says Program Director H. Winauer, who used to work for the General Foods Jello and Pudding Division, the M&M-Mars candy bar company and National Licorice.

But Winauer contention is not accepted by everyone. "Kids like sweets because that's what we teach them to like," says Marcella Katz, a New York Public Health Department nutritionists. You can't pass a TV set or a supermarket without seeing sugar. Winauer's reasoning is like the old southern maxim: "blacks would rather eat pigs knuckles than sirlion steak any day."

As a matter of fact, this kind of thinking propelled Memphis school lunch director Ted MacLoud to feed 20,000 poor blacks each morning with Astrofood.

"If you drive through the black neighborhood--which I have to, to get to work every day--you can see they're all coming out of the corner drugstore with a cake and a bottle of pop," he explained. "They don't eat eggs and fruit in their homes. The cakes are more like what they're used to eating," MacLoud said. "Why, if we let them, they'd want to eat chocolate every day."

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A MEDICAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY? IT'S NOTHING TO SNEEZE AT

NEW YORK (LNS)--Testimony at recent Congressional hearings revealed a new addition to the medical-industrial complex. The Medical Insurance Bureau (MIB) of Greenwich, Connecticut, maintains a medical data bank on nearly 12 million persons.

It collects information from its 700 member life insurance companies, as well as from some doctors and hospitals, and functions primarily to alert insurance companies to high risk insurance applicants. The executive director refused to comment on whether MIB supplies similar information to health insurance companies.

But with the prospect of health insurance companies and large employers, the market for such services looks like a very rich one indeed.

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(Thanks to Health/Pac for the info in this story)

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"Who are the oppressors? The few: the king, the capitalist and a handful of other overseers and superintendents. Who are the oppressed? The many: the nations of the earth; the valuable personages; the workers; they that made the bread that the soft-handed and idle eat. Why is it right that there is not a fairer division of the spoil all around? Because laws and constitutions have ordered otherwise. Then it follows that laws and constitutions should change around and say there shall be a more nearly equal division."

Mark Twain, 1886

BANKS RELEASE INFORMATION ON MOVEMENT ACTIVISTS TO FBI: NO SUBPOENAS NEEDED

NEW YORK (LNS)--A Justice Department official recently admitted that the FBI has been examining individuals' bank accounts without their knowledge or a court order.

Banks are supposed to protect information about their customers, and for the record, bank officials claim they don't release information on individual accounts to the government without a subpoena.

Up until 1970, banks did not keep detailed records of the money and checks moving in and out of their customers' accounts. But, in 1970, at the urging of the Justice and Treasury Departments, Congress passed the Bank Secrecy Act which now requires banks to keep extensive records of domestic and foreign transactions.

In recent hearings before a Senate sub-committee considering modification of the law, Justice and Treasury Department officials claimed that the legislation was vital to combatting high-level drug traffickers and such "white-collar" criminals as tax evaders and securities manipulators.

FBI files, however, tell a different story. In a column last week, Jack Anderson revealed that not only doesn't the government restrict its snooping to "drug traffickers, tax evaders, and securities manipulators" but that bank officials cooperate in releasing the information without subpoenas required by law.

Predictably, some of their favorite targets are people on the left and in the anti-war movement. One FBI memo quoted by Anderson concerns a $500 check Benjamin Spock received from the Vietnam Peace Parade Committee in 1967. The memo warns that the "above check information cannot be made public except in the usualy proceedings following the issuance of a subpoena..." The Amalgamated Bank of N.Y. officials involved in the case say that it is their policy to get a subpoena before releasing such information, but they admit that bank officials, frequently cooperate with federal investigators.

Another "Top Secret" FBI memo dated April 30, 1971 lists five checks written by Jane Fonda to various organizations. Another memo, dated January 1972 documents ten checks drawn on her account. In Fonda's case also the memos were accompanied by a warning that the information " is not to be made public" without a subpoena directed to "Arthur W. Herbert, Assistant Secretary" at Morgan Guaranty Trust Company.

Bank officials are anxious to deny the apparent complicity with these extra-legal investigations. But it is clear that as long as they are required to keep files on their customers, it is more than likely that the government investigators will be able to find a way to add that information to their already bursting files.

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PLEASE PAY YOUR BILLS SO THAT WE CAN PAY OURS.

more.....

[Note to Editors: The following is the second half of the interview with three of the Tombs 7 --Curtis Brown, Ricardo De Leon and Nathaniel Ragsdale. They are currently awaiting the verdict in their trial which stems from charges coming from the October 1970 rebellion in the Tombs (Manhattan Mens House of Detention).

See graphics section in this packet as well as checking the note to editors to the 1st half.

If the verdict comes in before this packet is printed, it will be on the inside front cover.]

"NO MORE WILL I ACCEPT A PLEA TO VINDICATE A COURT, A JUDGE, A DA, OR ANYTHING ELSE":
SECOND HALF OF AN INTERVIEW WITH 3 OF THE TOMBS 7

LIBERATION News Service

Yet after the prison rebellion, which was "serious" enough that seven people are facing life imprisonment for it, "Nothing has really changed," comments Ricardo De Leon. "The only thing they've changed now is that they have better public relations--whitewash. You still have rats and roaches running around. When the guards beat people up they take them to the middle of the elevators between the floor instead of beating them up in front of the other inmates."

But shorter waiting periods to trial, better food, reduced bail, some educational facilities? No. Some inmates provide education for themselves. Nathaniel Ragsdale:

"Me and Curtis and quite a few other brothers got some books from the outside. We had a political education class going up there. It was beautiful--I got a lot of knowledge out of it. They used to teach class twice, sometimes three times a day. Everytime we lock out we go have our class. And I learned more in that period of time than all of the time of me being incarcerated.

"The officers didn't like that. The warden did everything he could to break it up. They'd make believe we're teaching hate and so on because it was something that could help all of the brothers there. We talked about how to solve the problems we had, our hangups, coming to understand ourselves, living within ourselves in everyday life and how to stop saying inside yourself, 'I hate this and I hate that.' We really had a togetherness and I learned a lot from that.

After a while Warden Glick was interviewed in the Daily News and he said it was his class. That was nothing--it was irrelevant to us whose class it was. It was just set up so we could get something out of it. It was better than watching TV and playing cards or something that would be nothing to us when we go outside."

"In the Tombs, we had organized a legal forum," remembers Ricardo, "where we had all the legal cats who helped do motions for the rest of us. You know, there is a ruling which is nothing but an excuse to perpetuate the elitism of the legal profession--the Richardson rule--which says that a defendant that has an appointed counsel cannot file by himself. So what we had to do was write up a motion, all the copies, send it to his Legal Aid lawyer so he could put in the motion for him--something the Legal Aid lawyer should have done on his own. This is how you are blocked."

Some inmates like Curtis Brown become jailhouse lawyers--*"something the court dislikes and the District Attorney hates because as he puts them in, we put them out."*

"You know," commented Curtis, *"I took my case because my two co-defendants requested me to take my case because with the prosecution defending the District Attorney's office, the court defending the court itself, the correction officers defending the Correction Department, we had no one to defend the inmates against the charges. When I talk about inmates we aren't just talking about us three. I'm talking about the whole 200-300 men who were up there. Something went wrong. The system said it was the fault of the inmates, the inmates say no this is not true. It might have been part of our fault but the majority of the fault is on the system and the system ought not to try to cover it up."*

The system or the "machine" as Ricardo De Leon describes it, includes not only the judge and the DA but the Legal Aid Society who is given to indigent inmates to defend them.

"The type of advice the Legal Aid Society provides is usually bad," says De Leon. "The only thing they know--'I've got this nice plea for you.'

"If a guy has a robbery charge he usually has a robbery charge because the police wrote it up as a robbery charge--possibly it isn't even grand larceny. So when he goes to the grand jury he gets indicted on Robbery 1. So when he comes down they offer him four yours and he's facing 25, and he'll say, 'Wow, I'll take four.'

"I know people who have said that the DA told them, 'Well we know you didn't do it, but we got you indicted and we made a mistake. So clear up our books, take this plea of this misdemeanor, that's all and you walk.'

"Legal Aid's function is one of oiling the machine. The court calendars are so crowded they have a big backload of cases. So the more cases they dispose of, the more cases they are able to throw into the hopper with cops busting people in the street. They go in one end and come out the other end upstate. When they finally come out again there hasn't been any change--they're going back to the same conditions, the same situation, the same drug environment.

"I've seen lawyers come into a pen, call a guy and have him plead to a case that is not even his. Guys have done this--plea to homicide or robbery."

"Throughout this country," says Curtis Brown, *"jails are one big business. If you backtrack on a jail or law itself you will see it support hundreds of thousands of people--college professors, police department, judges, clerks, bailiffs, the DA, the guards, food administrators. . . .And before they will give this up, they will kill everybody in jail--Attica proved it."*

"In the South," says Ricardo,"you have all those

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military bases. The whole economics of those towns go around those military bases. Up here in the North, the prisons serve the same function. Not only does the prison itself provide employment to the large majority of the population but all the things they buy in the immediate vicinity provide commerce for the businessmen in the area. At Clinton Prison, the Warden, Lavalle has business interests all over. He owns a motel where the people who go up there to visit have to spend $20 a night to stay. The areas around the prisons are not economically advanced and if they would take out the prisons, the whole economy of the area would collapse."

The huge prisons in New York State, for example, act as factories producing goods--from flags to office furniture to clothing--to be used in all parts of the state's bureaucracy. The Department of Correction publishes a catalogue (which looks like a Sears catalogue) describing the goods available.

"Clinton Prison," goes on De Leon, "has the only profitable cottonmill in the North--they process cotton from bail to finished goods. They pay people 15¢-20¢ a day--all that is is slave labor. They bust cats off the block in Bedford Stuyvesant --mostly blacks--and here you go into the cotton mill. You're supposed to be rehabilitated and you're going up there into a cotton mill. What the hell is that going to do anybody any good when that's the only one there is in this area of the country.

"Another racket they run is in Auburn prison where they have a whole plant where they make license plates. They play a double game on the taxpayer. Number one the taxpayers pay for the machinery, the guards' salaries, but on top of that they charge the taxpayer for the same license plate that was made with his money. What kind of preparation can a person who spends, 3, 4, 5 years making license plates go out on the street and do? They don't have license plate factories out there."

Much of what the three talked about they wanted to get into in the trial but were stopped by the judge who would only allow testimony on conditions if it was wandered into by a prosecution witness. *"We were going to put the state on trial,"* commented Brown. *"They wanted to be sure that it was the state that was trying us."*

But prisons being prisons, a victory in a prison rebellion case doesn't mean victory parties for freed defendants with friends and relatives. It means that they escaped getting life imprisonment.

"By nature prison is a violent institution--the mere fact of confining people is violence itself, observes Ricardo De Leon. "The guards are people from working class backgrounds but what happens is that they internalize the whole thing of the power structure, in assuming an authoritative role and having people under them--this enhances their ego. They're able to do their thing because the whole structure backs them up all the way up the line to Rockefeller and the Pentagon. When Attica happened they were able at that moment to give vent to things that were in their day dream--to have a duckshoot among a bunch of niggers.

"What happens is that it creates a group of people with a vested interest in the society itself. Because everyone of these guards, their families and their relatives are upholders of the system--even though it doesn't operate in their interest.

"You know some of the guards in here are complaining about taxes. I tell them, 'you talk about taxes and you have a president who is spending 55% of your taxes in Vietnam. They don't want to hear but eventually it starts them thinking because they're being messed over too but they don't realize it.

"The main use of the prison is to use it against out there though they don't realize it. They hold it over the people's heads. If you step out of line, and you don't do this, you go in here where we have these guys. It's the people out there they're trying to control.

"Out there you only have the illusion of being free--you're limited by your economic situation as to where you can go, what you can do.

"Even though the economy and technology have advanced to a stage where it could be done, they don't want to provide an adequate standard of living on the basis of taxing the rich, automating the factories and guaranteeing people a decent living. They don't want to do this because some rich businessmen are going to lose some money in the process. There'll have to be a whole reallignment of power to do this.

"If you don't have the economic basis to do certain things, you're not free for anything. Everything is time. If you spend eight hours on either a hussle or a job that doesn't provide enough for you, then you have to spend three more hours, trying to get some more money. And you have to sleep some time. What about the other things in life--things that you want to do? You have no time to engage in anything--you're so limited. In here, it's only that it's enforced--you have a gun and a billyclub behind.

"It's like a set of Chinese boxes. You're out in a bigger box and they bring you into a smaller box. Like in here they bring you into a smaller box in segregation where I'm at. If I step out of line here, they have a smaller box to put me in until the ultimate box which is the coffin."

The court, the DA, the Corrections Department, have done everything possible to make this case disappear. They offered the defendants pleas and when they insisted in going ahead with the trial, hid the pretrial hearings away in a hidden courtroom. The DA has threatened to indict any inmate who testified for them on as many charges or more than the seven were originally charged with. The New York Times, the television stations have hardly given it any coverage on the grounds that it's not a political trial (while giving pages of space and hours of TV time to the legal cases of Clifford and Edith Irving --which hardly brough earthshaking issues of the day to the fore).

"The Tombs, Attica, Rahway, Jackson State, Kent State--they're all the same thing," comments Curtis. *"The only slight difference is that these people were*

so-called free, these people didn't commit crimes against so-called society. But when you come to look at it at its highest point, these people died like the people in Attica died, so it didn't make any difference.

"It's something going wrong with this country. The people who are supposed to benefit out of the government are not benefiting. The government itself is commiting crimes against the world which thepeople themselves don't appreciate. They're allowing drugs to be brought into this country so that wealthy people become wealthier and poor people are becoming addicts. They're destroying our youth in Vietnam, they're destroying our youth in the streets. And because of these things there is a confrontation at the present time between the people and the so-called government. And if there isn't a change in this country, then we have to have more prisons, more prison riots or rebellions, more prison protests, Atticas where more inmates and officers die.

"When I see my daughter and my wife in court, it's a hurting thing in a sense," says Ragsdale. "But then it's a beautiful thing because I know they know this is something that someone has to do --to stand up for something they know is right. It's not like coming in here just to sit around and say 'Well everything is goingtto be all right and we're going to be cool' because it don't go like that."

Curtis Brown says, *"I don't plea no more, from here on I come out fighting, if I'm right. If I'm wrong, I will back up and say I'm wrong but I will try to find out the reason why I was wrong. No more will I accept a plea to vindicate a court, a judge, a DA or anything else.*

"You know, I've found myself and I think each one of us on this trial has actually found ourselves. We have become better men, better people. We know we have a duty to help the people now, instead of hurting the people. We know who are enemies are. This makes us better men."

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JAILHOUSE LAWYER WINS CASE:
GETS $7,500 IN DAMAGES FROM COP

BROOKLYN, NY (LNS)--In one of the highest settlements of its kind ever awarded, a prisoner who defended himself, received $7,500 in damages from the cop who arrested him.

Jerry "the Jew" Rosenberg, one of the Attica inmates placed in segregation following the massacre on September 13, 1971, to wait for the indictments still to come, is a member of the National Lawyers Guild and got a law degree through a correspondence course while in prison. He has helped a large number of other prisoners with legal matters and has won some 39 cases for them.

Jerry, who was sentenced to life imprisonment in connection with the killing of a policeman, contended that his civil rights had been violated because his arresting officer, Detective Martin, gave out press statements placing Jerry at the scene of the crime and identifying him as the killer. Such statements, said Rosenberg, affected his right to a fair trial.

Now with one victory under his belt, Jerry will be suing five other cops in a similar action in Oct.

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[For photo, see graphics section of packet #402.]

GI'S DISOBEY ORDER PROHIBITING ANTI-WAR DEMONSTRATIONS IN EUROPE

SCHWEINFURT, Germany (LNS)-- Last May, over 80 GI's defied the ban on demonstrations by GI's in Europe and showed their opposition to the war in Vietnam by staging a peaceful demonstration through the main streets of Schweinfurt. Finally halting outside the gate of the barracks, the demonstration lasted over 8 hours starting from a meeting in the city park at 10 AM until around 6 PM when an order to disperse was given and obeyed. During the demonstration the GI's shouted chants, raised fists and read a series of demands to the brass:

Soon after the demonstration disciplinary actions followed. John Walsh was cited as a ringleader and brought to a courtmartial. Among his charges were breach of the peace and failure to obey two orders to leave the demonstration issued in hopes that it would then collapse. He beat three of the four charges against him but he got a reduction in rank and was fined for the fourth.

About 40 men got Article 15s (non-judicial punishment involving extra duty, restriction to base, etc.) Two of the 40 men--William Burke and Wayne Ellison--refused the Article 15s on the grounds of their rights to demonstrate as American citizens.

On July 24, Bill Burke was given a reprimand after being convicted of violating the regulation. Following that, Ellison's lawyer went to see the convening authority, Col. Peters, to see if he would just drop the whole thing. Peters flatly refused, stating that he wanted to see some results in this last trial. Then the judge disqualified himself from the Ellison case, feeling the anger of the Colonel at the light sentence given by the jury in the last case.

Ellison's trial began on July 27. In addition to the demonstration charge, two others were tacked on. One was filaure to wear a helmet on the firing range and the second larceny of a camera. Even the new judge couldn't let those charges stand, throwing them both out.

The judge handled the constitutional questions that the regulation violated the First Amendment with several curt "motion is denied's". As a result, Ellison's trial was over in one day. Ellison, too, was found guilty of violating the regulation and sentenced to 30 days at hard labor plus a reduction in rank. Col. Peters had finally gotten what he wanted--confinement for someone who participated in the demonstration.

As Ellison left the courtroom, he said he would willingly do the same thing again.

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[Thanks to Fight Back in Germany for this information.]

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WATTS SINCE THE REBELLION:
NOTHING MUCH HAS CHANGED.

By Earl Ofari
LIBERATION News Service

[Editor's Note: August marks the seventh anniversary of the Watts rebellion, during which, for five days , residents of the community actually defeated the police and for a fleeting moment gained control of their community.

The Watts Rebellion set the psycholological mood for the rise of black power, black pride, and black consciousness. It laid the ground for the even more massive rebellions that swept Detroit and Newark and other cities in 1967.

The rebellions were followed by a flurry of bureaucratic investigations and commission reports and a frenzied effort to patch up the most glaring community problems.

The predictable explanations avoided dealing with conditions in the ghettoes, by ascribing the rebellions to "outside agitators", "criminals and hoodlums","tiny organized bands of militants" and "unemployed transients."

In fact, Watts was a fairly stable community, (83% had lived there longer than 5 years) in which an estimated 34% of the population fully backed the "riot" and 60% saw it as an "effective black protest." A minority of those arrested had police records.

The ghetto uprisings were not chaotic riots--the burning and looting was selective. Even the California state investigative commission's report calls attention to the fact that libraries, churches, homes, hospitals, and public buildings were not touched. The "rioters'" anger was expended on "rip-off" businesses, like pawn shops, liquor stores, food markets, and appliance stores with records for overpricing, shoddy merchandise, deceptive credit schemes and disrespect for shoppers.

The following article, excerpted from a report by black activist Earl Ofari, discusses conditions in Watts today in comparison to 1965. It is the first half of a study of Watts, which will be completed in the next packet.]

"The only thing that has changed in Watts is the years." (Watts resident)

LOS ANGELES (LNS)-- Driving through the center of Watts today one sees little which reminds you of the past. Gone are the numerous small businesses and homes that once lined 103rd St., the former commercial heart of Watts. They have fallen victim to either the firebomb or the more devastating redevelopment projects.

Even so, the empty lots, the few remains of burnt-out buildings, and the armed guards at several stores, serve today as physical reminders of the rebellion which shook the community seven years ago.

Just as important are the conditions which led to Watts in the first place.

In a sudden rush of fame and attention Watts received after the rebellion, few really took time to talk to the residents. The flocks of investigators that came to Watts loaded down with government grants rarely saw blacks as anything more than objects to be analyzed, and abstract figures on a staticians's chart.

Today, seven years later, "the only thing that has changed in Watts is the years" said one resident.

However, judging from the information available on Watts it might almost be better if this were the case. Conditions have not stood still but have actually worsened since 1965.

A cruel irony in Watts has been the employment situation. For years, blacks there, in an area that lies in the center of L.A. County's industrial section, have suffered near permanent depression.

Manufacturing, the dominant industry, accounts for 43 % of the jobs in South L.A. as well as processing, metal, industries, and wholesale trade.

In 1968, 11,637 were employed within a one mile radius of 103rd and Wilmington, the center of Watts. Half were employed in manufacturing (with half of this total at the General Motors plant in adjacent South Gate.) The other major industiral employers (in the Watts area) were, Southwest Steel Rolling Mills, Stanray Pacific Corporation and the Earle M. Jorgenson Steel Distribution Company (all having more than 1,000 employees.) But the bulk of the higher scale, and salaried jobs were taken by white workers from the surrounding blue collar suburbs of Downey, South Gate, Bell, etc.

Unemployment, now standing at 22.7 per cent in Watts, nearly double that in 1965, is daily being pushed higher by the current economic crisis.

Overall, the male labor force in Watts is lower than the rest of the county. In the 20-34 age group there were 5,000 more women than men. In places like the projects just about all that's seen is women and children. The much greater proportion of women is one clear indicator of the near systematic decimination of young black men through prisons, the draft and death.

Watts working women are also a declining force in key labor areas. The only big increase has been in clerical fields.

The black industrial labor force primarily comes from outside of Watts. In Watts, unskilled and semi-skilled workers remain non-unionized and unorganized. This perpetuates the depressed, semi-colonized status of the commuity.

Furthermore, in the three years from 1967 to 1970, blacks had the least gain of all ethnic groups in the number of registered apprentices. State supported job training programs like the Concentrated Employment Program haven't really dented the problem. The youth end up shifting from one training program to another finding no work that prepares them for the modern job market, and soon dropping out.

By far the great publicized sorespot in Watts has been police practices.

The shooting, a few weeks ago. of a 16-year-old black girl by two white plainclothes officers led to the first demonstration by community residents in several years at the 77th St. police station which covers Watts. A Community Task Force against Police Brutality was also formed, reviving the Community Alert Patrol idea of 1966 organized to "police the police" in the black community.

One slight measure of police abuse is the complaints. Even though the present procedure of processing citizen's complaints through the Internal Affairs Division of the L.A.P.D. is regarded as wholly inadequate, people still make use of it. From 1965 through 1968, the number of complaints for "excessive force" went from 231 to 369,

Residents frequently charge that the 77th St. Station resembles a fortress with an occupying army. Although the station covers a smaller area than ten out of seventeen other L.A. stations, it had the greatest humber of personnel and equipment in 1970.

Between 1965 and 1970 every type of "crime" was up in the Watts district. Street robberies jumped from 484 in 1965 to 1101 in 1970;-that topped all other areas in L.A. Delinquency cases went from 22.6 per 1,000 to 55.7 Thefts also increased substantially. The 77th St. station led the city in 1970 for arrests for"property crimes," like robbery and burglary. These "property crimes" are usually a good guage of the extent of need in an impoverished community. With the economic crisis deepening, there is little reason to expect any change in the "crime" pattern, no matter how many community relations experts are brought in.

By 1966, social action by Watts residents had gathered momentum, drawing on the energy released by the rebellion.

As the grass-roots organizations became more and more effective, the government began to pour large sums into the area. Residents soon began to note certain negative changes. The summer festival --a community designed memorial to the rebellion-- appeared to lean more on the commercialism and professionalism of new corporate "sponsors" like Schlitz and Pepsi-Cola.

At its peak, there were around 400 "community" organizations in Watts funded from outside. Many were divided from each other by petty bickering and in fighting that seemed to go wherever the "Man's" money went.

By 1969, the field had been narrowed and power had concentrated in the hands of two agencies: the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) and the Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC). The former agency was established by the city council in December 1968 as the major public planning agency responsible for a series of Watts Redevelopment Projects. CRA recieved a 19 million-dollar capital grant for the Department of Housing and Urban Development for its operations.

The purpose was to build new, low-cost housing, shopping centers, and public services in the central Watts area. In early 1970, buildings were torn down in preparation for the new construction.

But, things were not going so smoothly in the community. A provision in the CRA's charter called for "citizen participation" in the various phases of the agency's work. With this view, a community advisory group, named the Watts Community Development Advisory Committee (WCDAC) was organized with the task of building the necessary community involvement.

Shortly after its formation, the WCDAC began charging the CRA with ignoring the community in attempting to force its own bureaucratic decisions through without consideration for their consequences.

CRA's proposals for townhouses, for example, was interpred by community residents as a fancy way of saying more projects which was overwhelmingly rejected by the residents. WCDAC also said that the amount paid by CRA for property they needed for building was often several thousand dollars below the assessed market value. Residents claimed that upon payment they were hit with 90 day eviction notices.

Throughout the year, WCDAC protested CRA's top-down practices. It wanted CRA to follow a "Watts' Peoples Plan".it had drawn up, tailoring the housing and land use more to the desires of the community. The chairman of WCDAC's planning sub-committee, Burt Wilson, described the group's intentions: "WCDAC was supposed to be a rubber stamp for the CRA; to tell the people here's what CRA's going to do and have them obediently respond. For this we get a nice plaque from the mayor saying what a nice job you did for the community. Instead, we started making the system work the way it was supposed to. We started our own public relations, got out press releases and literature. This upset CRA. We went to the people to find out what they wanted to go in the redevelopment project. We drew up actual plans, scale model drawings which blew CRA's mind. This was the first time a citizens' advisory committee had ever functioned this way. We pushed it to the point where we actually forced the CRA to abandon its plans for townhouses and multiple family dwellings.

To this day there is no firm committment from CRA to work more closely with the advisory committee. WCDAC reports the opposite is happening. They cite a new Model Cities directive to absorb the WCDAC into a larger advisory agency, giving CRA easier control over it.

Meanwhile, building itself is at a standstill. The cleared land holds none of the promised homes and shopping centers, only weeds.

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[Note to Editors: See graphics in this packet to accompany this story and watch for the second half of this study which will appear in the next packet.]

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"Voting for is not socialism any more than a menu is a meal."

Eugene Debs, 1911

BRITISH DOCKWORKERS REJECT UNION PACT-VOW TO CONTINUE STRIKE

LONDON (LNS)--The 20-day British dockworkers' strike, which has all but sealed England off from the rest of the trading world, formally ended on August 16 when delegates of the longshoremen's union voted 50-33 to accept the pact proposed by the port employers.

The settlement is almost totally meaningless, however. Militant shop stewards, meeting without union sanction, voted to defy the return-to-work call set for midnight of the 20th.

The bitter division between rank and file and the union leadership erupted into violence when the settlement was announced. Hundreds of rank and file members stormed the building where the delegates were meeting and attacked those who voted for the settlement. Jack Jones, general secretary of the union, was punched and had to be rescued from the crowd by police.

Because the rank and file are solidly behind the shop stewards it is unlikely that the nation's 42,000 dockers will return to work as instructed. In fact, on August 17 rank and file groups at England's largest ports--London, Liverpool, Manchester and Hull--have voted to continue the strike in spite of the settlement.

The proposal that the delegates agreed upon gives dockers the most extensive job security provisions of any British labor group. It comes, however, too late for the 20,000 workers who have been forced out of the industry over the last 5 years by the introduction of containerized cargo which lessens the need for skilled cargo handling. Because of containerization, employers were able to move loading and unloading operations out of the port area, and thus avoid paying union wages and benefits.

Rank and file refused the new proposals because it does not cover, but only promises to further study the question of, workers at private wharves and small ports. This kind of solidarity among dockworkers has been consistent throughout the strike.

As a result of the strike hundreds of ships have been left anchored in British harbors, causing employers an estimated loss of over $1 million daily. Because of these heavy financial losses Prime Minister Heath adopted state-of-emergency powers enabling him to use troops to move "vital goods." These powers were never exercised, however, because of the government's fear that such action would push the striking workers to even greater militancy.

As an alternative to such strong-arm measures, government officials worked hard to get union leadership to agree to a relatively early end to the walkout. The agreement they reached came as no surprise to British workers who are used to union leadership siding with employers--90% of British strikes last year were wild-cats. But by their actions of August 16 and 17, rank and file members showed that control of the strike is in their hands.

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GUERRILLA ACTIVITY IN PORTUGAL INCREASES: "IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE HEADED FOR A SHOWDOWN"

LISBON (LNS)--At about dawn on August 9, 18 bombs exploded against high tension wires reducing electrical power in the Portuguese capital of Lisbon by thirty percent and temporarily cutting off all power to Oporto, the country's second largest city.

The blasts, which injured no one, occurred just hours before President Americo Thomaz, a stooped 77 year old admiral, was sworn in for his third seven-year term in the mostly ceremonial office. Though no one has yet claimed responsibility for the bombings, it is believed to be the work of one of the several clandestine revolutionary groups operating within the country.

The inaugural ceremonies went on as planned, however most Poruguese citizens ignored the event. Thomaz referred to the bombing and the general political climate in the country when he remarked, "I do not think the recent years have been easy."

And well he might feel that way. Such attacks by guerrilla forces have become somewhat of a regular event since Marcello Caetano replaced Antonio de Oliveira Salazar as Premier and effective dictator of the country in September of 1968. At that time it was thought that Caetano would move away from the strong-arm police-state tactics used by the Salazar regime.

The years since 1968 however, have seen the cost of living continue to rise while wages have been frozen by Caetano. And attempts by labor and student groups to protest the conditions have been met by severe police repression.

* * *

Although a colonial power, Portugal is a largely underdeveloped nation, making it the target of many foreign investors. This foreign (largely British) capital has placed the emphasis on highly technological industries like chemicals, metal production and electricity rather than on investments in areas more easily integrated into the traditionally agrarian economy. A number of British automobile plants have been opened up, for example, although the vast majority of Portuguese people cannot afford to buy a car. Portugal has the second lowest (after Turkey) per capita yearly income of all NATO members--$539 per year.

The amount of foreign capital entering the country quadrupled between 1963 and 1968, and profits for foreign investors increased ten times.

The 1963 bulletin of the Society of Swiss Banks noted the change in the Portugese economy when it stated that "The most significant development in the financial sector is without doubt the change of attitude of the Lisbon government towards foreign capital, public and private." The bulletin further points out that "the necessity to finance the military efforts in Angola led to this about-face."

The foreign investments have put the emphasis on skilled labor which leaves most Portugese-- 64% are unskilled-- out in the cold. So because of

lack of work, low wages and bad working conditions when employment can be found, many Portuguese view emigration as the only solution.

In the period from 1950 to 1970 over 2 million Portuguese emigrated either legally or illegally. These emigrants, most of whom have gone to Western European nations, keep in contact with friends and relatives at home and inform them of how poor Portugal really is compared to the rest of Europe.

As a result of these conditions, worker and student groups began to protest the country's economic policies. And, despite the fact that they are banned by law, strikes, slowdowns and demonstrations have begun to occur more frequently. Caetano has responded to these actions in ways reminiscent of Salazar.

In March of 1971, 3,000 workers gathered in front of Caetano's office in a silent demonstration asking that the work week be cut from 48 to 44 hours. Caetano responded by refusing the demand "in the interest of the consumer," and let loose police and dogs on the crowd.

So with most forms of non-violent dissent either made illegal or ignored, armed guerrilla action started to become more frequent.

During the months following March, 1971, a hole was blasted in a troop ship in Lisbon harbor; a train was derailed outside of Lisbon; explosives were set off in an Air Force hangar, totally destroying about a dozen planes and helicopters; and a bomb wrecked telecommunications at the NATO ministers' spring meeting at Lisbon this past June.

Responsibility for all the actions was claimed, in anonymous leaflets, by the revolutionary group called Armed Revolutionary Action (ARA). At the time of the NATO blast the ARA leaflet stated that "apart from being a warmongering and imperialistic manifestation, the ministerial meeting of NATO in Lisbon gives cover and moral and political support to the fascist and colonialist government of Marcello Caetano..."

But the tracks of Portugal's urban guerrillas are well covered. Very little is known of them and few have ever been captured. The Portuguese political police, frustrated by their inability to track down the ARA have used wholesale and groundless arrest sweeps in hopes of intimidating people. Under the preventive detention law a prisoner can remain in jail up to 180 days without being charged and without legal counsel. But the internal conditions in Portugal are so materially oppressive to the vast majority of people (it costs about half a year's salary for a worker to purchase a shack made of packing crates) that police intimidation is not successful in stopping the anti-government movements.

Obviously the ARA has the tacit support of a large number of worker, peasant and student groups since no matter how many interrogations the police conduct they aren't able to find anything about the ARA. the ARA has made it clear that it views the internal economic situation as a direct result of the government's attempt to put down the revolutionary movements in Portugal's African colonies. In a leaflet, the ARA declared support for "the people of Angola, Mozambique and Guinea who are up in arms in their fight for freedom and independence." But Caetano remains insistent in his effort to hold those areas under Portuguese control.

Again, foreign investors have much to do with this policy. Portugal's control of those parts of Africa opens up their valuble resources for European and U.S. exploitation. And, since Portugal doesn't have the industrial development to take full advantage of the wealth of these countries, it is forced to take what it can from foreign capital who are able to exploit them..

Portugal spends about half of its yearly expenditures on the colonial wars, but since it has little heavy industry it has relied heavily on economic, political and military aid from its allies to continue its fight.

The U.S.-- which has quite an interest in the situation, since about 40 U.S. corporations (like Gulf Oil, Standard Oil, Tenneco and Chase Manhattan Bank) are operating either in Angola or Mozambique-- gives military aid to Portugal either through NATO or directly through the Military Assistance Program (MAP). According to State Department figures, the U.S. has given Portugal about $350 million since 1950 under the MAP program alone.

Caetano has shown no sign of yielding to the rising militancy both at home and in the colonies. In a recent speech he made his position clear: "The colonies must be defended because it would be unlawful to betray the trust placed in the Portuguese fatherland by those who work, invest and create in all the provinces with admirable enthusiam, to the extent that today, still, a surprising number of foreign witnesses find the economic expansion of Angola, for instance the brightest and most promising reality on the African continent!"

Opposition forces are just as determined to break these colonial ties and return the economies of the colonies to the people of those countries and return the economy of Portugal to the Portuguese people. In the words of one Portuguese labor leader, " It looks like we're headed for a showdown!"

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[Note to Editors: See cover for graphic to accompany this story. Thanks to the American Committee on Africa for information in this story.]

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"Then there is the home. What a terrible fetish it is! How it saps the very life energies of woman,-- this modern prison with golden bars. Its shining aspect blinds woman to the price she would have to pay as wife, mother and housekeeper."

--Emma Goldman from
The Traffic In Women and Other Essays on Feminism.

Please pay your August bill!

SUPRISE! SUPRISE!
U.S. LEADERS FAVOR CAPITALISM.

NEW YORK (LNS)--"There is a clear consensus for capitalism among American leaders," commented Professor Allen H. Barton who just completed a poll of what the New York Times called "456 of the nation's richest, most powerful and influential men."

This should not be surprising considering that those surveyed included 24 persons with assets of $100-million or more and the chief executives of 96 large corporations. Also surveyed were 125 leading Republican and Democratic party members, labor leaders and representatives of the mass media, including publishers, editors, columnists and television executives.

Though the majority of the "leaders" favored some kind of Government action "to help the poor", anti-inflation wage and price controls, not surprisingly enough they reject such ideas as a top limit on incomes and nationalization of large corporations. Even among the "influential labor leaders" only one in six gave an even qualified approval to socializing large industries.

Even though confidentiality was guaranteed by the surveyors, only 40% of those people with assets of $100-million or more agreed to take part in the survey. "We figured that those businessmen who answered were (slightly) more liberal than the average," said professor Kadushin of Columbia University in New York.

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"THIS WILL BE A LOVE AFFAIR TO REMEMBER":
TEXAS AIRLINE PUSHES ITSELF AS "THE LOVE AIRLINE"

NEW YORK (LNS)--If you get to Texas, you might try flying Southwest Airlines, "The Love Airline." This company has been around for only a year, but in that time it has been furiously outgrossing its major competitor for the Dallas-Houston shuttle, pink-painted Braniff, which is pretty gross itself.

This company doesn't mess around--to train their stewardesses, they hired the woman who trained the Bunny hostesses on Hugh Hefner's planes. The stock greeting is: "Welcome to the love flight, I hope this will be a love affair to remember. Y'all buckle your safety belts and don't you dare get up. We don't want anything to happen to you now because you know we love you."

Southwest doesn't serve any food, they figure they'll do better on drinks alone, which they bill as "love potions".

"Why don't all the drinkers sit up front and we'll have a party," the stewardesses announce. Need it be said that those stewardesses must wear tangerine hotpants, tight orange sweaters and high white boots?

Although customers are victimized by this manipulation, the brunt of the shit, of course, is borne by the stewardesses, whose jobs seem to be made more and more degrading by the airlines every year.

Only a few years ago, the stewardesses union won them the right not to have to smile at every customer. Now, it seems, they must win the right not to appear willing to jump into bed at the drop of an attache case.

Meanwhile, stewardesses on National, whose plentiful advertising says "Hi, I'm Linda (or Barbara), Fly me," are beginning to wear buttons that read, "Go Fly Yourself, National."

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(thanks to Mockingbird for information in this short)

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KLEINDIENST TRIES TO BAN NIXON IMPEACHMENT COMMITTEE

NEW YORK (LNS)--Recently an ad appeared in the Sunday New York Times calling for the impeachment of President Nixon on grounds that he had usurped power in his conduct of the war in Vietnam and had violated a Congressional ban on further military spending imposed in 1971. The ad was signed by well-known people, most of them anti-war activists. Some Congresspeople were on the list.

Now the Justice Department is moving to prevent the National Committee for Impeachment (NCI) from collecting or disbursing funds--an effective way of preventing them from functioning.

Attorney General Kleindienst said that the New York Times ad "had the purpose of influencing the election of persons to public office", thus putting the NCI in the same catagory as the Democrats and Republican parties.

Therefore, Kleindienst reasons, the NCI comes under the jurisdiction of the 1971 Federal Campaign Election Act which requires that candidates disclose the source of their campaign funding. Kleindienst asserts that NCI has violated that act by not reporting its contributions and disbursements.

This puts the NCI in very good company, at least in some people's eyes, since the Republican Party has refused to disclose the source of what has become known as Nixon's $10 million secret campaign fund. The Republicans claim that the $10 million was collected just before the law took effect.

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"To say that woman is mystery is to say not that she is silent but that her language is not understood."

--Simone de Beauvoir

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"Courts of arbitration are nonsense. I don't want any. Of what use are they when the commissioners are paid and bribed by the capitalists to decide against us? Away with them! Do business with the devil and you'll be swindled. We want the full value of our labor--that's all."

--Walter Vrooman, Workman's Advocate, 1887

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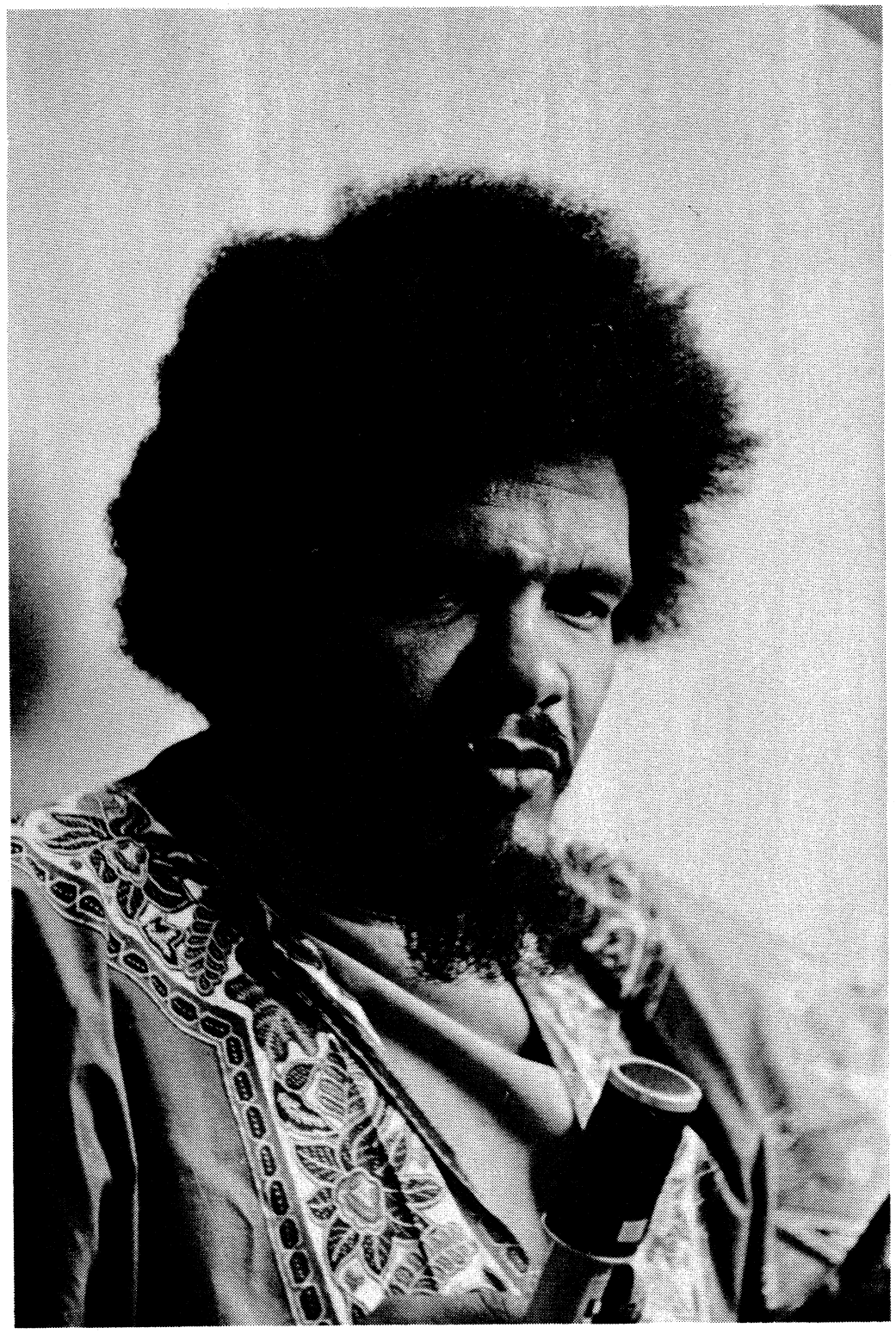
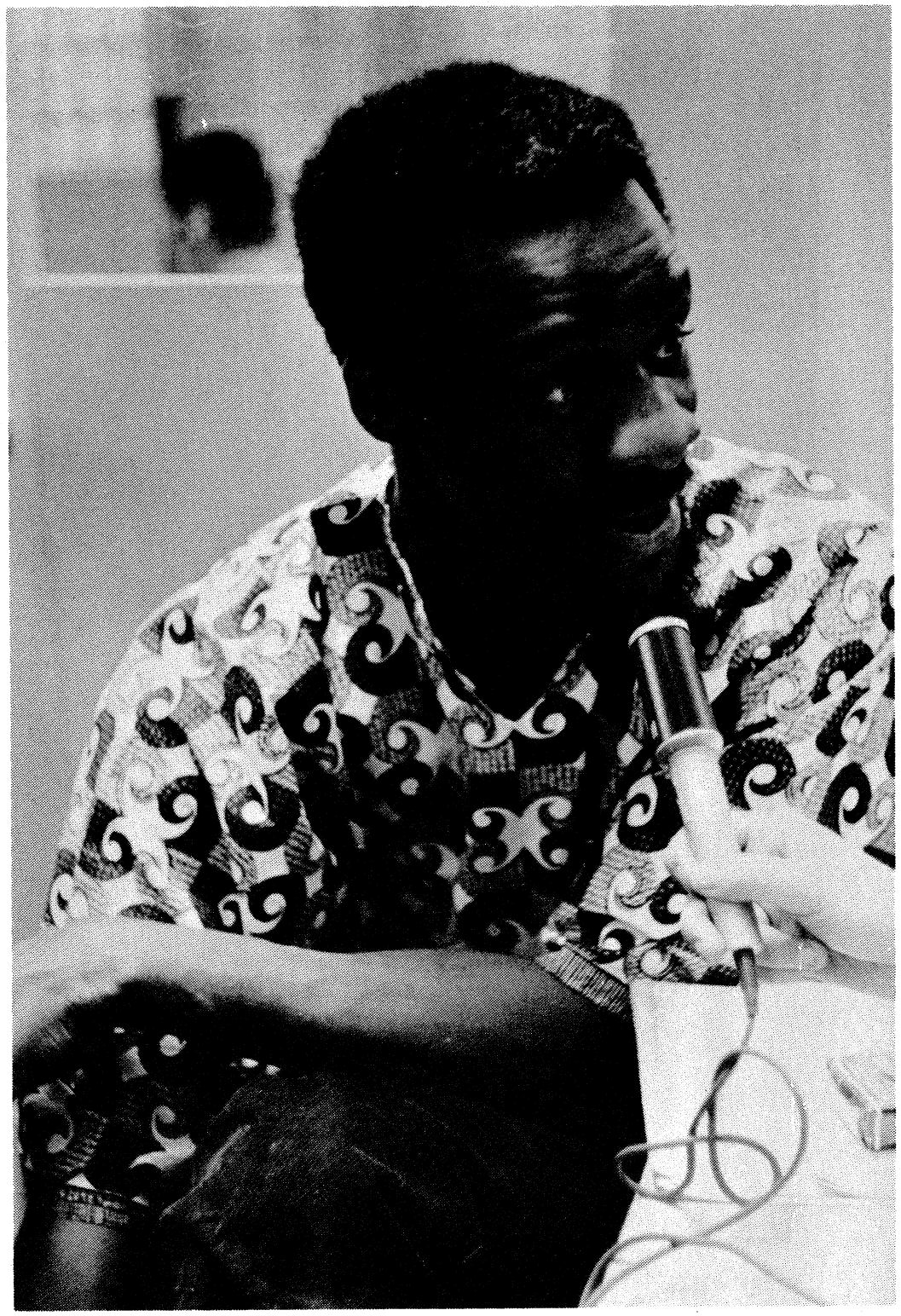
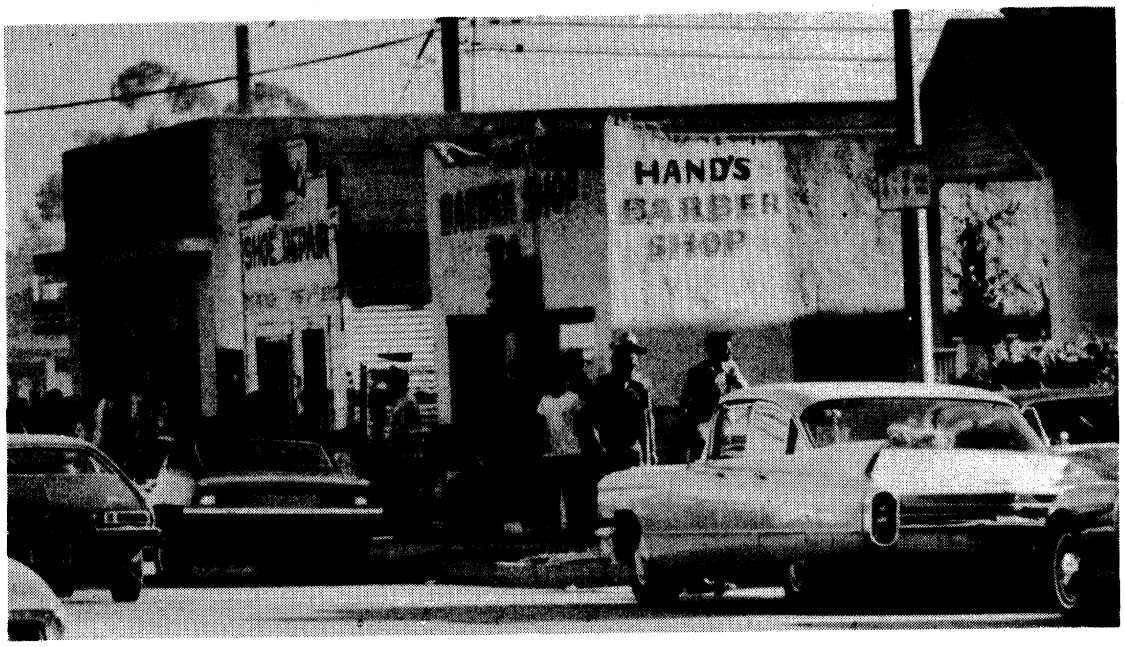
PLEASE PAY YOUR BILLS REAL SOON FOLKS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!





TOP: Curtis Brown of the Tombs 7. SEE INTERVIEW ON PAGE 3 OF THIS PACKET AND THE FIRST PART IN PACKET #458. CREDIT: LNS women's graphics collective.

BOTTOM: Ricardo De Leon of the Tombs' 7. SEE INTERVIEW IN THIS PACKET, PAGE 3, AND #458. CREDIT: LNS women's graphics collective.


HAND'S
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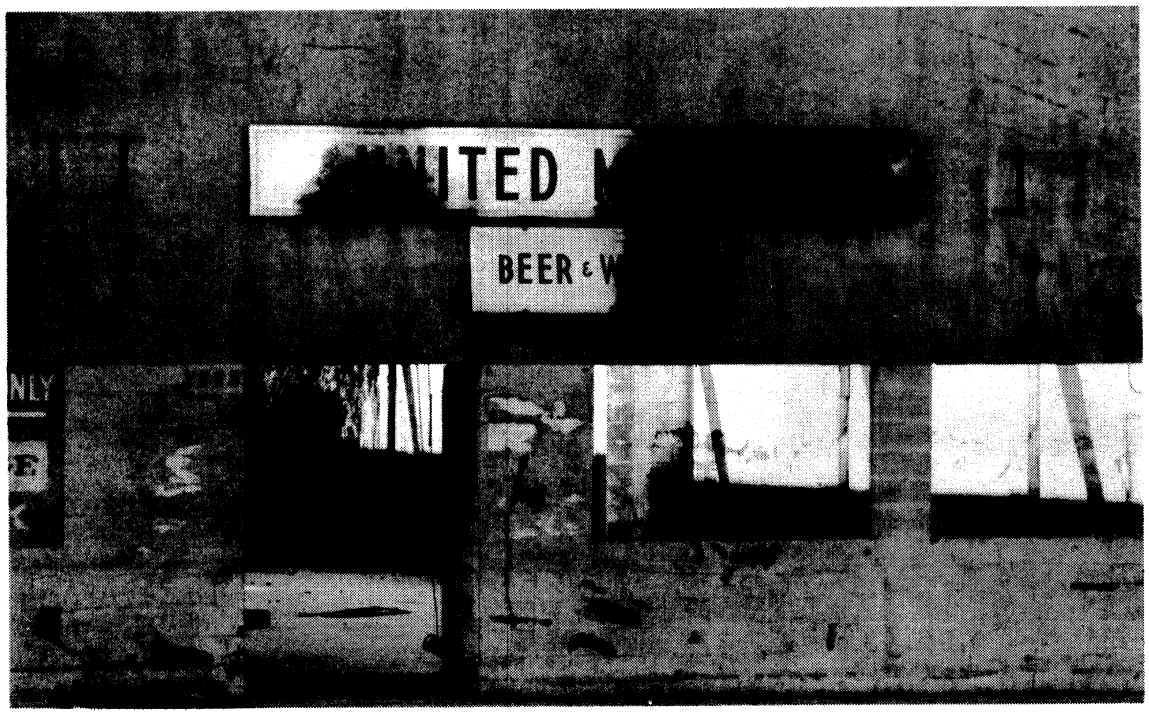
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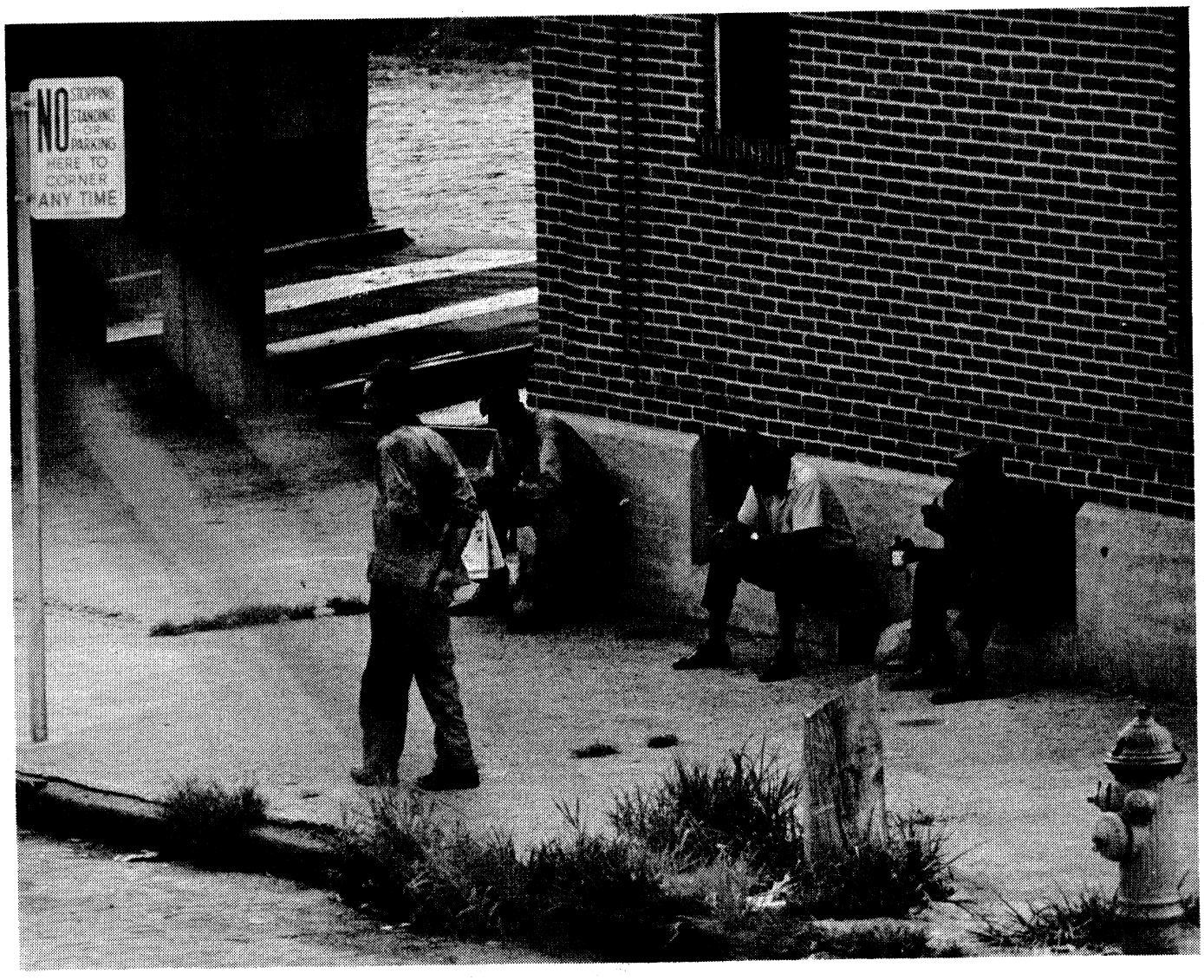
BEER &

THE PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE GO WITH THE STORY ON WATTS IN THIS PACKET. THESE ARE RECENT PHOTOS SHOWING PRESENT CONDITIONS.

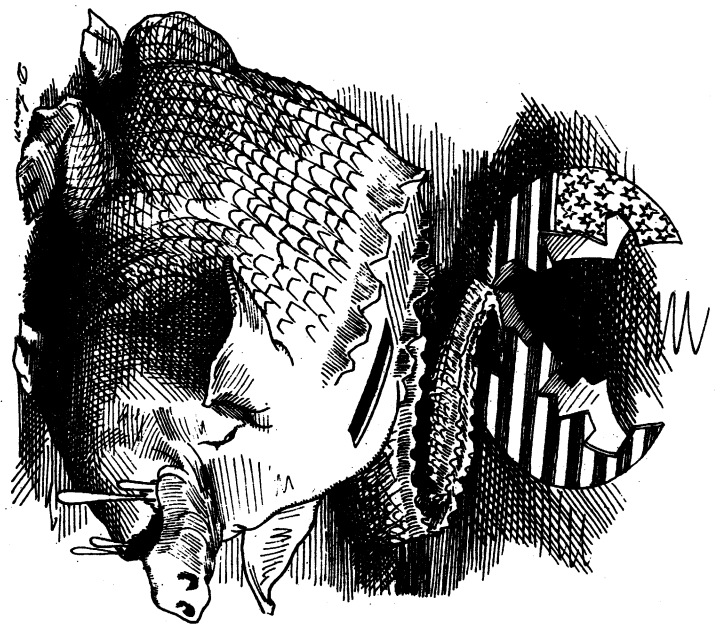
TOP: The unemployed are always on the streets of Watts. CREDIT: Earl Ofari/LNS.

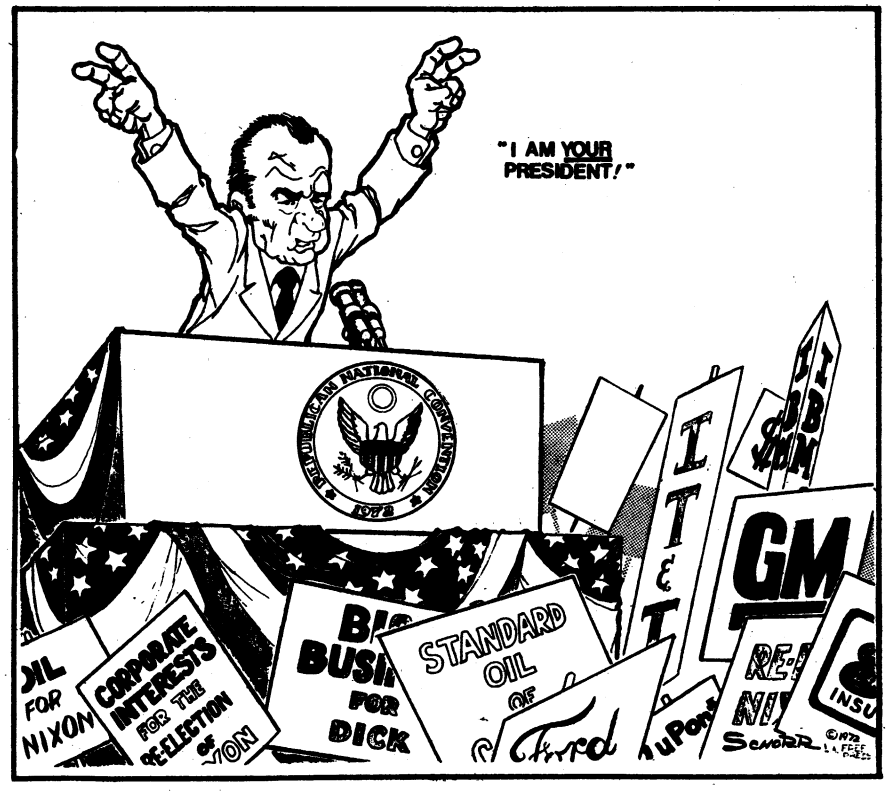
MIDDLE: An ironic street sign next to a boarded up house. CREDIT: Earl Ofari/LNS.

BOTTOM: This burned out building has not been repaired since the 1965 fires. CREDIT: Earl Ofari/LNS.


NO
STOPPING
STANDING
PARKING
WITHIN
30 FEET TO
CORNER
ANY TIME

TOP and BOTTOM: Men on the streets of Newark, 1965, the year of the Watts' rebellion. Two years later the Newark ghetto revolted.
SEE THE STORY ON WATTS IN THIS PACKET.
CREDIT: LNS.




"I AM YOUR PRESIDENT!"
REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION
CORPORATE INTERESTS FOR THE RE-ELECTION OF NIXON
STANDARD OIL OF
Ford
GM
Scherer ©1972 L.A. FREE PRESS

RISING UP ANGRY COMIX
WHEN I WAS IN KINDY-GARDEN THEY TELLS ME, "PETE.. YOU'RE FREE IN AMERICA - BUT WITH EVERY FREEDOM THERE'S A RESPONSIBILITY
I COULD DIG DAT. SOMETIMES I FELT FREE TO RAP WIT MY PARTNER IN CLASS. THEN COME DA RESPONSIBILITY
YEOW
SHAD UP
WAK
WHEN I WAS OLDER, SOME-TIMES I FELT FREE TO SKIP SCHOOL - THEN CAME DA RESPONSIBILITY.
YA PUNK - I'M GONNA CHOKE YA ALL DA WAY BACK TO SKOOL
SOMETIMES I'D FEEL LIKE GETTIN' A LITTLE ROWDY - GET IT ON
I THINK I HEAR SOME RESPONIBILITY SNEAKING UP BEHIND.
SNAP
SNAP
DALEY TELLS ME IF I SEES ANY O'THEM ROWDIES, BEAT TA KILL
WAK
LATER, I FELT FREE TO COP A LITTLE BUZZ
BZZZZZZZ
AND I GOT SLAPPED WITH 6 MONTHS OF RESPONSIBILITY AT 26TH AND CALIFORNIA
99857
THEN I GETS 2 YEARS OF RESPONSIBILITY IN THE ARMY, AND I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW I WAS BEING FREE THAT TIME
SO I GET OUT AND TRY TO FIND A JOB BUT I CAN'T FIND ONE
NO JOBS
GROWL
SO I CALLS MY CONGRESSMAN AND HE TELLS ME I'M FREE FREE TO STARVE TO DEATH... SO I ASK HIM WHO'S RESONIBLE AND HE HUNG UP
CLICK
I'M SO HONGRY I COULD EAT MY ADAMS APPLES
GROWL
SO I'M SITTING ON THE CURB AND I'M NOT FEELING VERY FREE - JUST HUNGRY
AND I SEES THIS RICH GUY COME BY IN HIS LIMOSINE AND HE'S GRINNING AND LOOKING PRETTY FREE
I COULD TELL CAUSE HE RAN OVER MY TOES AT 70 M.P.H. AND HE DIDN'T EVER TURN AROUND TO LOOK
SO I THINK - RICH PEOPLE ALWAYS GOT TIME TO GO TO FLORIDIA, AND DRIVE BIG CARS AND EAT GOOD. THEY MAKE MONEY OFF MY TIME
SO ALL THATS LEFT TO DO IS TO "SIEZE THE TIME"
RIGHT-ON
GIMME FIVE
GIT IT ON
I HEAR YOU BROTHER

TOP: Right-on RISING UP ANGRY COMIX. CREDIT: RISING UP ANGRY/LNS.

BOTTOM LEFT: The american PIGgy bank is hatched. CREDIT: LNS.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Nixon and his delegates at the Republican Convention. CREDIT: LOS ANGELES FREE PRESS/LNS.